

Utah Lake Authority

HB232

Why is this needed?

Utah Lake is a considerable asset that we treat as a liability. It functions well as a water delivery and water storage facility, but significantly more resources and local input are needed to improve the current in-lake problems .



Does this Facilitate Any Transfer of Island Land to Private Owners?



No. Please see lines 574-578:

(6) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to allow the authority to:

(a) consider an application for the disposal of land within the lake authority boundary under Title 65A, Chapter 15, Utah Lake Restoration Act; or

(b) issue bonding or other financing for a project under Title 65A, Chapter 15, Utah Lake Restoration Act.

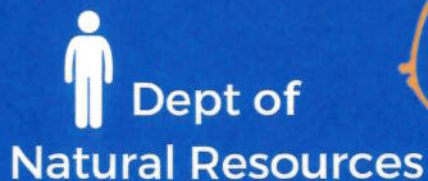
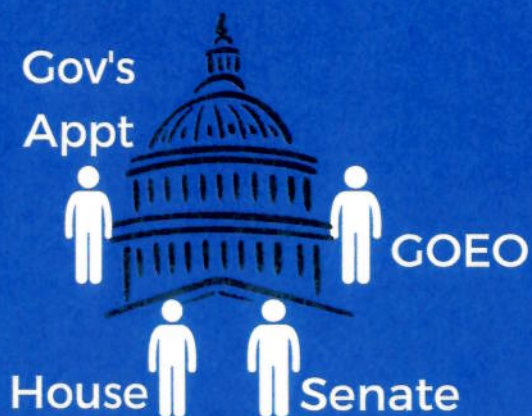
How is this Different than the Inland Port Authority?

The Inland Port Authority involved the state removing land from local control with limited representation from local sources. The Utah Lake Authority involves a state asset that will receive increased local input and effort for improvements.



Utah Lake Authority

15 BOARD MEMBERS



Saratoga Springs

Testimony on HB 232 1stSub

1. My name is Warren Peterson

2. When Rep. Brammer presented HB 364 in committee during the 2021 General Session in which he proposed organization of the Utah Lake Authority, representatives of many entities with Utah Lake interests spoke in opposition to the bill. Each person who spoke in opposition to HB 364:

a. Acknowledged dire need to improve Utah Lake and their desires to bring about such improvement within our lifetimes.

b. Promised to help prepare a Utah Lake bill that they could support.

3. At the March 10 meeting of the Utah Water Task Force, the Task Force members voted unanimously:

a. to offer Task Force resources (i.e., volunteers) to help Rep. Brammer to prepare a new Utah Lake bill, and

b. to organize a committee for that purpose.

4. When that motion passed, and with no warning, my former friend, Dr. Brian Steed, asked that I chair the committee. We asked those interested in volunteering for the Utah Lake committee submit their names. Sixty-five people volunteered to serve.

The first meeting of the committee members was held March 31, 2010. We polled the 35 members who attended the first meeting and found that they held 1016 years of collective education and professional experience, and a total of 572 years of experience on Utah Lake issues. We asked that they exhibit the characteristic Task Force civility, openness, candor, integrity, objectivity, and diligence throughout the process and I'm happy to report that they did so.

5. We organized 10 subcommittees,

a. each focused on a specific topic addressed in HB 364, and

b. asked each of the 65 to select the subcommittee or subcommittees on which they wanted to serve, and

c. asked each subcommittee to analyze their topic and present written recommendations for redrafting HB 364.

6. The subcommittees worked through the summer as volunteers and without budget. Reports were submitted in October.

7. We selected a drafting team from among the committee members and assigned the drafting team to convert the subcommittee reports into bill language.
8. Many hours were spent negotiating and hammering out bill language among the drafting team, with Rep. Brammer involved throughout the process.
9. The drafting team worked directly with Rep. Brammer up through last Friday, Feb. 10, until we reached consensus the bill you now see as HB232 1stSub .
10. In my opinion, I can recommend the bill as technically sound on the issues within the purview of the Water Task Force, namely:
 - d. Water rights and water supply management
 - e. Water quality
 - f. State sovereign lands
11. Throughout the process we maintained these priorities:
 - a. Create a organization and processes that could improve the lake quality and ecosystems within our lifetimes, building on what others have already done, and
 - b. Do not disrupt Utah Lake's role as the pivot point from which various water systems supply water to 1.5 million residents of the Wasatch Front and back and to key industries such as Rio Tinto Kennecott.
12. The Water Task Force Committee did not address the role of the Utah Lake Solution Project in any respect. Rep. Brammer asked that we neither promote nor hinder the Utah Lake Solutions project and we carefully followed his instructions. This bill is neutral as to that project.

On April 1, 1849, on my great-great grandfather's 18th birthday, he rode with the group that came to the banks of the Timpanogos River and the shores of Utah Lake to build Fort Utah. They were stopped by a group of Timpanogos Utes who would not allow them to pass until they promised "to do good things." It is time to make good on that promise.

Thank you.